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February 8, 2017

Pacific West Regional Director Laura E. Joss
National Park Service
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Pacific West Regional Director Laura E. Joss:

I am writing to express my deep concerns with your recent decision to close down the longstanding recreation services at Kettle Falls Marina for which no advance notice or opportunity for public comment was provided. This decision will not only cause serious harm to the local Kettle Falls economy and community, but will have a detrimental, long term impact on visitors who have enjoyed vacationing at Kettle Falls Marina for years.

The National Park Service (NPS) issued a prospectus seeking operators to provide recreational services at Kettle Falls Marina for the next 10 years this past summer, which closed on August 30, 2016. Merely six months later, the NPS abruptly announced the closure of the marina citing the need for an assessment of future recreational needs in the northern Lake Roosevelt area. I can certainly appreciate the agency's commitment to maximizing opportunities at Lake Roosevelt, but am curious as to how the NPS came to this final decision, especially when the original prospectus stated that "data for Kettle Falls Marina specifically indicates strong historical visitation and suggests the possibility of a good business opportunity for the concessioner-run operation in the future."

To provide transparency in this decision making process, I hope that you will provide answers to the following questions no later than March 6, 2017:

1. How many bids did the NPS receive to operate the Kettle Falls Marina?
2. Why was a contractor ultimately not selected as a result of the solicitation?
3. What specific studies does the NPS intend to develop to determine the future of the Kettle Falls Marina?
4. What is the timeline for these studies?
5. Why does the contract expire on April 30, 2017, if the National Park Service has not conducted the necessary studies to make a definitive determination on the future success of services?

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Finally, it is my understanding that several individuals and their families have already reserved houseboats and boat slips at the marina for the upcoming season, which I believe clearly demonstrates that there is a need for these services. As such, I respectfully request that you extend the current contract until the necessary assessments have concluded and local community and County Commissioners have been consulted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMorris Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress